

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II
AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

REF: STATE 27668; USNATO 978

1. ACCORDING TO BOGDAN TOMASIC, SECRETARY OF YUGOSLAV ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE SPONSORING SUBJECT CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD SEPT 8-13, 1975 IN EITHER OPATIJA OR ZAGREB.

2. TOMASIC TOLD CONGEN OFFICER INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES IN LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MOST PARTICIPANTS IN WW II, AS WELL AS THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. US INVITATIONS HAVE GONE TO NAS AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AS WELL AS NUMEROUS UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING MICHIGAN, BERKELEY, HARVARD AND YALE. SOVIET INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING INVITATIONS INCLUDE LENINGRAD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MOSCOW UNIVERSITY, MOSCOW INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND WAR VETERANS COMMITTEE. INVITATIONS HAVE ALSO GONE TO LIMITED NUMBER OF HISTORIANS AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, (INCLUDING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH). (TOMASIC PROMISED TO SEND US LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AND

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INDIVIDUALS INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE.) TOMASIC EXPECTS

ABOUT 150 PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

3. TOMASIC SAID ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM USSR, HUNGARY, AND GDR, WHICH ARE SENDING "STRONG DELEGATIONS". HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SOON ACCEPTANCE FROM UNNAMED FRENCH SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE.

4. TOMASIC STATED THAT FEDERAL PRESIDENCY MEMBER VLADIMIR BAKARIC WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, SINCE HE IS PRESIDENT OF SPONSORING COMMITTEE WITHIN ACADEMY. FEDERAL PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ IS ALSO EXPECTED TO GIVE SPEECH AT CONFERENCE.

5. PURVIEW OF CONFERENCE INCLUDES CAUSES OF WW II, BUT ALSO COVERS WHOLE RANGE OF POSTWAR PROBLEMS, INCLUDING COLD WAR, DECOLONIZATION AND PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, ARMS RACE, AND ENERGY CRISIS. (WE ARE FORWARDING TO DEPT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ABOUT CONFERENCE VIA UNCLASSIFIED POUCH.)

6. TOMASIC EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE. IN CLEAR REFERENCE TO BLOC COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES, HE STATED THAT "WE DO NOT WANT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION TO BE ONE-SIDED". TOMASIC ACKNOWLEDGED DANGER THAT DISCUSSION OF MANY OF CONFERENCE TOPICS COULD DEGENERATE INTO POLITICAL POLEMICS, HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO AVOID SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. HE STATED THAT CHAIRMAN WILL KEEP FIRM HAND ON DISCUSSIONS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TOMASIC SAID YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT INVITING POLITICIANS, THE PRESENCE OF BAKARIC AND KARDLJ WOULD MAKE CONFERENCE SOMETHING MORE THAN PURELY ACADEMIC AFFAIR.

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